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Hundreds of convictions, but a major mystery is still unsolved 3 years after the Jan. 6 Capitol riot

By ALANNA DURKIN RICHER and MICHAEL KUNZELMAN
Associated Press

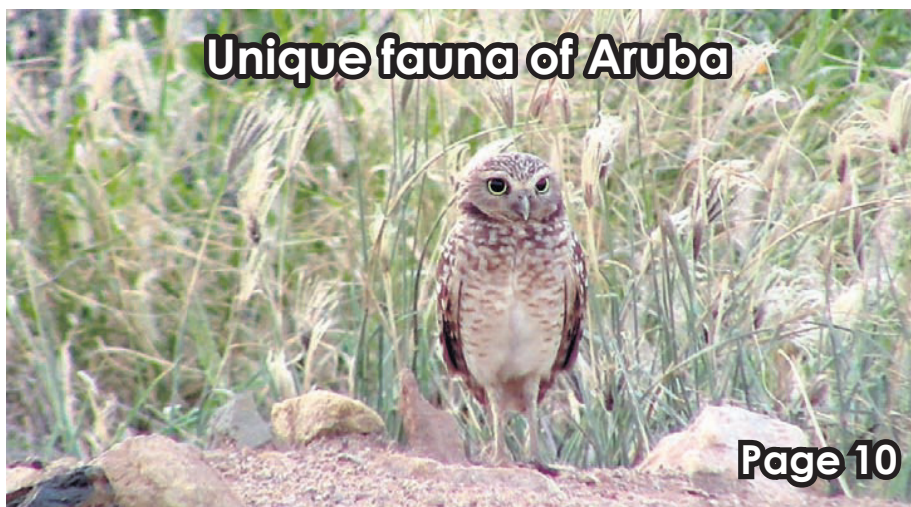
WASHINGTON (AP) — Members of far-right extremist groups. Former police officers. An Olympic gold medalist swimmer. And active duty U.S. Marines. They are among the hundreds of people who have been convicted in the massive prosecution of the Jan. 6, 2021, riot in the three years since the stunned nation watched the U.S. Capitol attack unfold on live TV. Washington's federal courthouse remains flooded with trials, guilty plea hearings and sentencings stemming from what has become the largest criminal investigation in American history. And the hunt for suspects is far from over. "We cannot replace votes and deliberation with violence and intimidation," Matthew Graves, the U.S. attorney for the District of Columbia, told reporters on Thursday.

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U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia Matthew Graves speaks about the unfolding of the January 6 attack on the Capitol during a presentation ahead of this year's third anniversary in Washington, Thursday, Jan. 4, 2024.

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Unique fauna of Aruba

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The Torch Parade is back!
The first parade of the Carnival

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Hundreds of convictions, but a major mystery is still unsolved 3 years after the Jan. 6 Capitol riot

Continued from Front

Authorities are still working to identify more than 80 people wanted for acts of violence at the Capitol and to find out who placed pipe bombs outside the Republican and Democratic national committees' offices the day before the Capitol attack. And they continue to regularly make new arrests, even as some Jan. 6 defendants are being released from prison after completing their sentences.

The cases are playing out at the same courthouse where Donald Trump is scheduled to stand trial in March in the case accusing the former president of conspiring to overturn his 2020 election loss in the run-up to the Capitol attack.

"The Justice Department will hold all Jan. 6 perpetrators at any level accountable under the law, whether they were present that day or otherwise criminally responsible for the assault on our democracy," Attorney General Merrick Garland said Friday. He said the cases filed by Graves and the special counsel in Trump's federal case, Jack Smith, show the department is "abiding by the long-standing norms to ensure independence and integrity or our investigations."

A look at where the cases against the Jan. 6 defendants stand:

BY THE NUMBERS

More than 1,230 people have been charged with federal crimes in the riot, ranging from misdemeanor offenses like trespassing to felonies like assaulting police officers and seditious conspiracy. Roughly 730 people have pleaded guilty to charges, while another roughly 170 have been convicted of at least one charge at a trial decided by a judge or a jury, according to an Associated Press database.

Only two defendants have been acquitted of all charges, and those were trials decided by a judge



U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia Matthew Graves speaks about the unfolding of the January 6 attack on the Capitol during a presentation ahead of this year's third anniversary in Washington, Thursday, Jan. 4, 2024.

Associated Press

rather than a jury.

About 750 people have been sentenced, with almost two-thirds receiving some time behind bars. Prison sentences have ranged from a few days of intermittent confinement to 22 years in prison. The longest sentence was handed down to Enrique Tarrio, the former Proud Boys national chairman who was convicted of seditious conspiracy for what prosecutors described as a plot to stop the transfer of power from Trump, a Republican, to Joe Biden, a Democrat.

Many rioters are already out of prison after completing their sentences, including some defendants who engaged in violence. Scott Fairlamb — a New Jersey man who punched a police officer during the riot and was the first Jan. 6 defendant to be sentenced for assaulting law enforcement — was released from Bureau of Prisons' custody in June.

ALL EYES ON THE SUPREME COURT

Defense attorneys and prosecutors are closely watching a case that will soon be heard by the U.S. Supreme Court that could impact hundreds of Jan.

6 defendants. The justices agreed last month to hear one rioter's challenge to prosecutors' use of the charge of obstruction of an official proceeding, which refers to the disruption of Congress' certification of Biden's 2020 presidential election victory over Trump. More than 300 Jan. 6 defendants have been charged with the obstruction offense, and so has Trump in the federal case brought by special counsel Jack Smith. Lawyers representing rioters have argued the charge was inappropriately brought against Jan. 6 defendants.

The justices will hear arguments in March or April, with a decision expected by early summer. But their review of the obstruction charge is already having some impact on the Jan. 6 prosecutions. At least two defendants have convinced judges to delay their sentencings until after the Supreme Court rules on the matter.

RIOTERS ON THE LAM

Dozens of people believed to have assaulted law enforcement during the riot have yet to be identified by authorities, according to Graves. And the statute

of limitations for the crimes is five years, which means they would have to be charged by Jan. 6, 2026, he said.

Several defendants have also fled after being charged, including a Proud Boys member from Florida who disappeared while he was on house arrest after he was convicted of using pepper spray gel on police officers. Christopher Worrell, who spent weeks on the lam, was sentenced on Thursday to 10 years in prison.

The FBI is still searching for some defendants who have been on the run for months, including a brother-sister pair from Florida. Olivia Pollock disappeared shortly before her trial was supposed to begin in March. Her brother, Jonathan Pollock, is also missing. The FBI has offered a reward of up to \$30,000 for information leading to the arrest of Jonathan Pollock, who is accused of thrusting a riot shield into an officer's face and throat, pulling an officer down steps and punching others.

Another defendant, Evan Neumann, fled the U.S. two months after his December 2021 indictment and is

believed to be living in Belarus.

WHAT ABOUT THE PIPE BOMBER?

One of the biggest remaining mysteries surrounding the riot is the identity of the person who placed two pipe bombs outside the offices of the Republican and Democratic national committees the day before the Capitol attack. Last year, authorities increased the reward to up to \$500,000 for information leading to the person's arrest. It remains unclear whether there was a connection between the pipe bombs and the riot.

Investigators have spent thousands of hours over the last three years doing interviews and combing through evidence and tips from the public, said David Sundberg, assistant director in charge of the FBI Washington Field Office.

"We urge anyone who may have previously hesitated to come forward or who may not have realized they had important information to contact us and share anything relevant," he said in an emailed statement on Thursday.

The explosive devices were placed outside the two buildings between 7:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. on Jan. 5, 2021, but officers didn't find them until the next day. Authorities were called to the Republican National Committee's office around 12:45 p.m. on Jan. 6. Shortly after, a call came in for a similar explosive device found at the Democratic National Committee headquarters. The bombs were rendered safe, and no one was hurt.

Video released by the FBI shows a person in a gray hooded sweatshirt, a face mask and gloves appearing to place one of the explosives under a bench outside the DNC and separately shows the person walking in an alley near the RNC before the bomb was placed there. The person wore black and light gray Nike Air Max Speed Turf sneakers with a yellow logo. □

NRA chief Wayne LaPierre says he's resigning days before trial scrutinizing his leadership, spending

By MICHAEL R. SISAK
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The long-time head of the National Rifle Association said Friday he is resigning, just days before the start of a civil trial over his spending of millions of dollars' worth of travel, security and other perks at the powerful gun rights organization's expense.

Wayne LaPierre, the executive vice president and chief executive officer, said his departure is effective Jan. 31. The trial in New York Attorney General Letitia James' lawsuit against him, the NRA and others who have served as organization executives is scheduled to start on Monday.

LaPierre and ex-NRA President Oliver North are among the witnesses expected to testify.

LaPierre, 74, has led the NRA's day-to-day operations since 1991, acting as the face and vehe-



Wayne LaPierre, CEO and executive vice-president of the National Rifle Association, addresses the National Rifle Association Convention, April 14, 2023, in Indianapolis.

Associated Press

ment voice of its gun rights agenda. He once warned of "jack-booted government thugs" seizing guns, called for armed guards in every school after a spate of shootings, and condemned foes backing gun control measures as "opportunists" who "exploit tragedy for gain."

In recent years though, the NRA has been beset by

dwindling membership and financial troubles, along with lingering questions about LaPierre's leadership and spending. One of LaPierre's top lieutenants, Andrew Arulanandam, will assume his roles on an interim basis, the organization said. "With pride in all that we have accomplished, I am announcing my resignation from the NRA," LaPi-

erre said in a statement released by the organization. "I've been a card-carrying member of this organization for most of my adult life, and I will never stop supporting the NRA and its fight to defend Second Amendment freedom. My passion for our cause burns as deeply as ever."

James, a Democrat, accuses LaPierre and other executives of illegally diverting tens of millions of dollars from the NRA and spending organization funds on personal trips, no-show contracts and other questionable expenditures. LaPierre is accused in the lawsuit of spending millions on private jet flights and personal security and accepting expensive gifts such as African safaris and use of a 107-foot (32-meter) yacht from vendors.

He is also accused of setting himself up with a \$17 million contract with the NRA if he were to exit the organiza-

tion, spending NRA money on travel consultants, luxury car services, and private jet flights for himself and his family including more than \$500,000 on eight trips to the Bahamas over a three-year span.

James is seeking to ban LaPierre and the other executives from serving in leadership positions of any not-for-profit or charitable organization conducting business in New York, which would effectively remove them from any involvement with the NRA.

Some of the NRA's excess spending was kept secret, the lawsuit said, under an arrangement with the organization's former advertising agency, Ackerman McQueen. The advertising firm would pick up the tab for expenses for LaPierre and other NRA executives and then send a lump sum bill to the organization for "out-of-pocket expenses," the lawsuit said. □

New gun law has blocked over 500 firearms from being bought by young people, attorney general says

By LINDSAY WHITEHURST
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — More than 500 gun purchases have been blocked since a new gun law requiring stricter background checks for young people went into effect in 2022, Attorney General Merrick Garland said Friday, the day after a school shooting in Iowa left a sixth-grader dead.

The bipartisan law passed in June 2022 was the most sweeping gun legislation in decades and requires extra checks for any gun purchases by people under age 21. Those denied a gun purchase include a person convicted of rape, a suspect in an attempted murder case and someone who had been involuntarily committed for mental-health treatment, according to the Justice Department.

President Joe Biden applauded the news, calling it an important milestone.

"Simply put: this legislation is saving lives," Biden said in a statement where he also called for additional measures such as universal

background checks and a ban on firearms often referred to as assault weapons. The Democratic president said he was "proud to have taken more executive action than any president in history to combat

gun violence in America, and I will never stop fighting to get even more done."

The news came the day after the country was rocked by another school shooting, this one carried out by a 17-year-old armed with a shotgun and a handgun who killed a sixth grader and wounded five others on the new year's first day of classes at an Iowa high school, authorities said. The suspect, a student at the school in Perry, Iowa, died of what investigators believe is a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

It wasn't clear Friday how the shooter got the weapons, but people under 18 can't buy legally buy guns in purchases regulated by federal law.

The 2022 law was passed after a series of mass shootings, including the massacre of 19 students and

two teachers at a Texas elementary school. The measure was a compromise that also included steps to keep firearms from more domestic violence offenders and help states put in place red flag laws that make it easier for authorities to take weapons from people found to be dangerous.

It mandates extra checks with state and local officials for young buyers, along with the FBI databases typically searched before someone is approved to buy a gun. Those steps have so far blocked 527 guns from being sold, Garland said.

Still, "This is not a time to relax our efforts," he said in remarks that also touched on overall declines in homicides in many U.S. cities. "We have so much more to do." □



Attorney General Merrick Garland talks during a news conference on ongoing efforts to combat violent crime in cities across the United States Friday, Jan. 5, 2024, in Washington.

Associated Press

Florida can import prescription drugs from Canada, U.S. regulators say

By **MATTHEW PERRONE**
AP Health Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Food and Drug Administration on Friday cleared the way for Florida's first-in-the-nation plan to import prescription drugs from Canada, a long-sought approach to accessing cheaper medications that follows decades of frustration with U.S. drug prices. Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis signed the plan into law in 2019, but it required federal review and approval by the FDA, which controls prescription drug imports.

Democratic President Joe Biden has backed such programs as a way to lower prices, signing an executive order in 2021 that directed the FDA to work with states on imports.

The policy change represented a shift after years of successful lobbying by the pharmaceutical industry, which said imports would expose U.S. patients to risks of counterfeit or adulterated drugs. The FDA also previously warned of the difficulties of assuring the



A sign for the U.S. Food and Drug Administration is displayed outside their offices in Silver Spring, Md., Dec. 10, 2020.

safety of drugs originating from outside the U.S.

But the politics surrounding the issue have shifted in recent years, with both parties including former President Donald Trump doubling down on the import approach.

The FDA said Florida's pro-

gram will be authorized for two years, though imports won't begin immediately. Under federal requirements, state officials must first test the drugs to make sure they're authentic and relabel them so that they comply with U.S. standards. Florida's health depart-

ment must also provide a quarterly report to the FDA on the types of drugs imported, cost savings and any potential safety and quality issues.

"These proposals must demonstrate the programs would result in significant cost savings to consumers

without adding risk of exposure to unsafe or ineffective drugs," FDA Commissioner Dr. Robert Califf said in a statement.

The FDA action was first reported by The New York Times.

DeSantis, who is battling Trump for the Republican presidential nomination, previously sued the Biden administration for allegedly delaying approval of the import program. Several other states are also awaiting federal approval.

The FDA is likely to face legal challenges over the decision, which the pharmaceutical industry's trade group called "a serious danger to public health."

"We are deeply concerned with the FDA's reckless decision to approve Florida's state importation plan," the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America said in a statement Friday.

Many people already buy at least some of their medicines from pharmacies in Canada or Mexico, although technically it's illegal to import them. □

Associated Press

Flu and COVID infections got worse over the holidays, with more misery expected, CDC says

By **MIKE STOBBE** AP Medical Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The flu season in the U.S. is getting worse but it's too soon to tell how much holiday gatherings contributed to a likely spike in illnesses.

New government data posted Friday for last week the holiday week between Christmas and New Year's show 38 states with high or very high levels for respiratory illnesses with fever, cough and other symptoms. That's up from 31 states the week before.

The measure likely includes people with COVID-19, RSV and other winter viruses, and not just flu.

But flu seems to be increasing most dramatically, according to the Centers for

Disease Control and Prevention.

"We expect it to be elevated for several more weeks," said the CDC's Alicia Budd. So far, though, this is a moderate flu season, she said.



A sign for flu and covid vaccinations is displayed at a pharmacy store in Palatine, Ill., Wednesday, Sept. 13, 2023.

Associated Press

Interpreting flu reports during and after the holidays can be tricky, she noted. Schools are closed. More people are traveling. Some people may be less likely to go see a doctor, deciding

to just suffer at home. Others may be more likely to go.

The flu season generally peaks between December and February; CDC Director Dr. Mandy Cohen said she expects it to peak by the end of this month. Officials say this season's flu shots are well-matched to the strain that is spreading the most.

According to CDC estimates, since the beginning of October, there have been at least 10 million illnesses, 110,000 hospitalizations, and 6,500 deaths from flu so far this season. The agency said 27 children have died of flu.

COVID-19 illnesses may not be as escalating as quickly as flu this winter.

CDC data indicates coronavirus-caused hospitalizations haven't hit the same levels they did at the same point during the last three winters. Still, COVID-19 is putting more people in the hospital than flu, CDC data shows.

Lauren Ancel Meyers of the University of Texas, said the nation is seeing a second rise in COVID-19 after a smaller peak in September. "There is a lot of uncertainty about when and how high this current surge will peak," said Meyers, who runs a team that forecasts COVID-19, flu and RSV trends.

A new version of the coronavirus, called JN.1, is accounting for nearly two-thirds of U.S. cases, according to a CDC estimate. □

Survivors are found in homes smashed by Japan quake that killed 94 people

By HIRO KOMAE, AYAKA MCGILL and YURI KAGEYAMA

Associated Press

WAJIMA, Japan (AP) — A woman was pulled carefully from the rubble 72 hours after a series of powerful quakes started rattling Japan's western coast. Despite rescue efforts, the death toll Friday grew to at least 94 people, and the number of missing was lowered to 222 after it shot up the previous day.

An older man was found alive Wednesday in a collapsed home in Suzu, one of the hardest-hit cities in Ishikawa Prefecture. His daughter called out, "Dad, dad," as a flock of firefighters got him out on a stretcher, praising him for holding on for so long after Monday's 7.6 magnitude earthquake.

Others were forced to wait while rescuers searched for loved ones.

Ishikawa officials said 55 of those who died were in the city of Wajima and 23 were in Suzu, while the others were reported in five neighboring towns. More than 460 people have been injured, at least 24 seriously.

The Earthquake Research Institute at the University of Tokyo found that the sandy coastline in western Japan shifted by up to 250 meters (820 feet) seaward in some places.

The earthquakes set off a large fire in the town of Wajima, as well as tsunamis and landslides in the region. With some routes cut off by the destruction, worries grew about communities in which water, food, blankets and medicine had yet to arrive.

The United States announced \$100,000 in aid Friday, including blankets, water and medical supplies, and promised more help would come. Dodgers major leaguer Shohei Ohtani also announced aid for the Noto area, though he did not disclose the amount.

Thousands of Japanese



In this image from a video provided by Osaka Municipal Fire Department, a woman, on a stretcher, who was found trapped under her destroyed house is rescued 72 hours after a strong earthquake in Wajima, Ishikawa prefecture, Japan Thursday, Jan. 4, 2024.

Associated Press

troops have joined the effort to reach the hardest-hit spots on the Noto Peninsula, the center of the quake, connected by a narrow land strip to the rest of the main island of Honshu.

Experts warned of disease and even death at the evacuation centers that now house about 34,000 people who lost their homes, many of them older.

Masashi Tomari, a 67-year-old oyster farmer who lives in Anamizu city in Ishikawa, said it was tough sleeping on the floor with just one blanket. There was no heating until two stoves finally arrived Thursday three days after the 7.6 quake struck.

"This is a terrible, cold place," he said.

Tomari felt at a loss thinking about his home, where broken glass and knocked over items littered the floor. It was pitch dark at night because the area was still out of power.

But Tomari and others were already thinking about rebuilding.

Sachiko Kato, who owns a clothing shop in Anamizu, put up a yellow notice as a warning inside her store where the walls have tipped slanted, and a red one for the shed in the

back that was completely flattened.

"So many stores were on this street. Now, they're all gone. Maybe we can work hard to rebuild," she said.

As of Friday, running water was not fully restored in Anamizu. Kato had to get water from a nearby river to flush the toilet.

Dozens of aftershocks have rattled Ishikawa and the neighboring region in the past week. Japan, with its crisscrossing fault lines, is an extremely quake-prone nation.

Weather forecasts called for rain and snow over the weekend, and experts warned of more aftershocks. □



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Experts warn that foreign armed forces headed to Haiti will face major obstacles

By DÁNICA COTO

Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)

— An international armed force slated to fight violent gangs in Haiti this year will face multiple challenges including shifting gang allegiances and widespread corruption among police, politicians and the country's elite, a new report warned Friday.

The multinational force, which will be led by Kenya, has yet to deploy as it awaits a court ruling in the east African country. If given the green light, a small team of Kenyans is expected to arrive in Haiti early this year, with a total of up to 5,000 personnel eventually participating in the mission. Burundi, Chad, Senegal, Jamaica and Belize also have pledged troops for the multinational mission.

"Major challenges lie in wait for the mission once it is on the ground," the report by Belgium-based International Crisis Group stated. "Haiti's gangs could ally to battle it together. Fighting in Haiti's ramshackle urban neighborhoods will put innocent civilians at risk. Links between corrupt police and the gangs could make it difficult to maintain



A police officer holds onto a man wounded during violent gang clashes, as they are driven away on the back of a moto-taxi, in the Carrefour-Feuilles district of Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Aug. 15, 2023.

operational secrecy. For all these reasons, preparation will be of critical importance."

Some 300 gangs control an estimated 80% of the capital of Port-au-Prince, with their tentacles reaching northward into the Artibonite region, considered Haiti's food basket.

Last year, gangs were suspected of killing nearly

4,000 people and kidnapping another 3,000, a spike compared with previous years, according to U.N. statistics. More than 200,000 people also have been forced to flee their communities as gangs set fire to homes, killing and raping their way across neighborhoods controlled by rivals. Haiti's National Police is no match for them: less than

10,000 officers are on duty at any time in a country of more than 11 million people. Ideally, there should be some 25,000 active officers, according to the U.N.

"The police are completely outnumbered and outgunned by the gangs," said Diego Da Rin, with International Crisis Group, who spent nearly a month in Haiti late last year to do

research for the report.

He said the people he interviewed were very skeptical that the force would even be deployed, given that it was approved by the U.N. Security Council last October, a year after Haitian Prime Minister Ariel Henry requested the urgent mobilization of an international armed force.

International Crisis Group also warned that authorities need to determine what will happen to gang members as the forces carry out their mission. It noted that prisons are severely overcrowded, and that Haiti's broken judicial system will be unable to handle thousands of cases once suspected criminals are arrested.

Da Rin said he interviewed a Haitian security expert who did not want to be identified for fear of retaliation whom he quoted as saying, "Where are the prison facilities to put thousands of gang members? Is the international community suggesting that we kill thousands of lads? What structures are in place to reintegrate these young people into society? I'm appalled by what's left unsaid." □

Associated Press

Global food prices declined from record highs in 2022, the UN says. Except for these two staples

ROME (AP) — Global prices for food commodities like grain and vegetable oil fell last year from record highs in 2022, when Russia's war in Ukraine, drought and other factors helped worsen hunger worldwide, the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization said Friday. The FAO Food Price Index, which tracks monthly changes in the international prices of commonly traded food commodities, was 13.7% lower last year than the 2022 average, but its measures of sugar and rice prices growing in that time. Last month, the index dropped some 10% com-

pared with December 2022. The drop in food commodity prices in 2023 comes despite a difficult year for food security around the world.

Climate effects like dry weather, flooding and the naturally occurring El Nino phenomenon, combined with fallout from conflicts like the war in Ukraine, bans on food trade that have added to food inflation and weaker currencies have hurt developing nations especially.

While food commodities like grain have fallen from painful surges in 2022, the relief often hasn't made it

to the real world of shopkeepers, street vendors and families trying to make ends meet.

More than 333 million people faced acute levels of food insecurity in 2023, according to another U.N. agency, the World Food Program. Rice and sugar in particular were problematic last year because of climate effects in growing regions of Asia, and prices have risen in response, especially in African nations. With the exception of rice, the FAO's grain index last year was 15.4% below the 2022 average, "reflecting well supplied global mar-

kets."

That's despite Russia pulling out of a wartime deal that allowed grain to flow

from Ukraine to countries in Africa, the Middle East and Asia. □



A farmer harvests rice crop in a paddy field on the outskirts of Guwahati, India, Tuesday, June 6, 2023.

Associated Press

The Torch Parade is back! The first parade of the Carnaval season



(Oranjestad)—Carnaval season is back on this year and Aruba is celebrating its 70th edition of Carnaval with a bang! Officially having begun on November 11th 2023, this Carnaval season starts off with the spectacular Torch Parade (Fakkel); a night-time parade filled with lights, music and fun!

Historically, Fakkel consisted of a parade with people carrying actual flamed torches around. However, in the modern version of the parade, groups and parade walkers opt for a safer and sustainable method; electric torches!

That's right, during Fakkel you mainly see pa-



rade walkers sporting an electric torch, completed with a group "uniform". These uniforms are mostly personally-designed T-shirts sporting the names and themes of the year's Carnaval groups participating in the Carnaval season. T-shirts are mostly decorated with glitter, sequance, cut-outs or even more light. You may also spot everyone carrying a light-up cup in

their hand...filled with water, of course! This year's Fakkel Parade takes places tonight in the Down-Town area of Oranjestad. When you actually get to see the parade pass by depends where on the side of the road you are sitting. But don't worry, chat up with some of the locals while you're waiting for the show! □

Create museum memories

ORANJESTAD — Museums are an integral part of conserving and honoring cultures, and Aruba is no exception. Our Island has a wide selection of various museums for our locals and visitors to see. Take this opportunity to learn about our island and experience a different day beyond the beach. Let us introduce to you these museums.

Museum of Industry Aruba

The Museum of Industry is located in San Nicolas—better known as the art capital of Aruba. This museum exhibits the industrial history of gold, aloe, phosphate, oil and tourism through elaborated displays and multimedia installations. The Museum of Industry is situated in the Water Tower in San Nicolas and narrates Aruba's industrial history, which began in the 19th century. The Water Tower was built in 1939 and consists of three sections: the substructure, the high-rising vertical shaft, and the tank at the top.



The Water Tower was purchased by the Monuments Fund in 2003 so it can be restored and preserved as one of Aruba's monuments. The Museum of Industry is part of Aruba Museum Foundation (Fundacion Museo Aruban), which is a foundation set to maintain, preserve, and protect the Aruban cultural sector, history, and nature. The museum of Industry is open daily from 9 am till 6 pm.

For more information, check out their Facebook page Museum of Industry Aruba.

Archaeological Museum of Aruba

The Archaeological Museum of Aruba is located at Schelpstraat 42 in downtown Oranjestad. The renovated historic Ecury complex in the area has been transformed from a family home to a modern museum that preserves Aruba's Amerindian cultural heritage. This 21st century museum is especially designed to preserve valuable artifacts dating back to the Pre-Ceramic period of 2500 BC.

In the late 1980's, AMA identified its need for an adequate housing for its collection and activities. After studying various options, a project proposal was drawn up, including the acquisition and restoration of historical buildings in downtown



Oranjestad.

These historical buildings were formerly the property of the Ecury family. The "Ecury Complex", is a cluster of single and two-story historic buildings, mainly Dutch colonial architecture from the late 19th and 20th century on a plot of approximately 1.700 m2.

In 1997, the Aruban Government bought the complex for the National Archaeological Museum project. In 2004, a financial agreement was signed with the European Development Fund and in 2006, restoration and construction work began on the monumental buildings and the soon-to-be exhibition space. In December 2007, the key to the complex was delivered and the museum's employees moved to the new location. The final design for the exhibit was completed in November 2007 and the permanent exhibit, financed by the Aru-

ban Government and the Union of Cultural Organizations (UNOCA), opened in July 2009.

At the new location, the National Archaeological Museum Aruba disposes of approximately 500 m2 for its permanent exhibit. This exhibit conveys information on the origin and culture of the first inhabitants of the island through archaeological objects and modern exhibition techniques. The new permanent exhibit gives the visitor an insight into the cultures that inhabited the island in Pre-Historical and Early Historical times. The museum also hosts attractive public programs, including lectures, educational projects, temporary exhibits and workshops.

The museum is open daily from 9:30 am till 4:30 pm. For more information check out the Facebook page Museo Arqueologico Nacional Aruba. □

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Food culture in Aruba

(Oranjestad) - Like many other cultures, an important aspect of the Aruban cultural identity is our connection to food and food traditions. The local food traditions consist of a melting pot of different cultural and religious eating habits and dishes.

Breakfast, lunch and dinner

The routine of breakfast, lunch and dinner on the island is one that does not completely follow a European or American routine, despite the major influences from these parts of the world on our culture and way of living. When it comes to the three important meals of the day, most of the Aruban population follows a Latin-American influenced routine.

Breakfast

Breakfast in Aruba is quite simple: a cup of coffee or tea, some bread, and sometimes an egg. Sometimes, due to the need of a quick "to-go" breakfast, you may also find many snack trucks and cafes that sell sandwiches, pastechis (meat pie), arepas and empanadas early in the morning.

Main Meal

The main meal is typically eaten in

most households around noon or in the afternoon. This can consist of meat, fish, and chicken—stewed or fried—with funchi (polenta) or rice with stewed vegetables. Often, fried or boiled plantain or pan bati (Aruban pancake) is included. Stews are a staple in Aruban cuisine and can be largely influenced by Latin-American and Latin/Afro-Caribbean Stews. Some of the more unique stews and soups from the ABC Islands* include sopi di bonchi cora (red kidney bean soup with pig tail), sopi mondongo (tripe soup), carni stoba (beef stew), comcomber stoba (West Indian gherkin stew) and much more.

Dinner Time

Dinner time can vary significantly from household to household. Unlike the U.S. or in Europe, dinner time typically does not consist of a whole (warm) meal. Instead, the evening "meal" can typically consist of something lighter, like a sandwich, though it is not uncommon to see leftovers from the main meal reheated and eaten again. Tea and coffee are often also served with the evening snack.

(Religious) Holidays



Christmas is probably the biggest global holiday, and every culture has its own spin on what their Christmas cuisine entails. In Aruba, our Christmas cuisine is again largely based on Latin-American influences, most notably from Venezuela. Ayacas and the famous pan di ham* are two crucial holiday dishes, along with stuffed turkey, roasted glazed ham topped with pineapples, arroz con pollo (rice and chicken) and potato salad, among other items. Traditional drinks include ponche crema (Aruban eggnog), chuculati pinda (hot chocolate with peanut butter), and homemade fruit punch. Desserts include, bolo di pistachio (pistachio cake), bolo di cashupete (cashew cake), quesillo (flan), bolo preto (dark fruit cake), drigidek (gingerbread), pan boyo (bread cake) and more.

Snacks and tasty delights

Besides meals and dishes that are eaten on the dinner table, Aruba also has a food tradition that includes snacks and other tasty delights that you may easily find around the island. These include, Saco*, basket, pastechi, kroket, deditos, Johnny cake and more. These snacks are usually sold at local snack trucks and cafes, often

located on the side of the road. In the area of Tanki Leendert and Tanki flip, for example, there are many of these trucks parked on the side of the road and often open until late at night—offering tasty and filling snacks post night-life fun. □

*ABC Islands: Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao

*Pan di ham: Derived from the Venezuelan Pan de Jamon (rolled up bread with ham, raisins and olives)

*Saco: Saco literally means "bag". Saco contains fried potatoes, plantains, chicken (and ribs) and a Johnny cake, served in a paper bag.

Source: Voeding, voedingsgewoonten en gerechten op Aruba (Nutrition, Food Traditions and Dishes on Aruba) by Biblioteca Nacional Aruba



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Enjoy one of the best views on Aruba at the top of the Hooiberg Hill



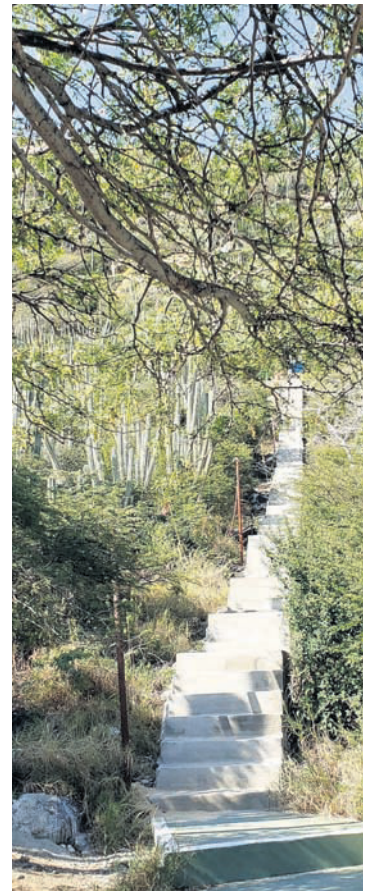
(Oranjestad)—If you are a regular hiker, or maybe want to spice up your morning work out session, then you might enjoy one of the most popular climbing sites on the island: The Hooiberg Hill. Accompanied with a 600-step staircase, this hill overlooks a great part of the island, the Caribbean sea, and sometimes even the Santa Anna mountain located in the coastal state of Falcon

in Venezuela, providing one of the best views you can get on Aruba.

located at the center district of the island, Santa Cruz, the Hooiberg Hill is the second highest point on the island at 165 meters above sea level (or about 540 feet above sea level). The highest point is Jamanota Hill at 189 meters (620 feet), located in the Arikok National Park.

The staircase that run on the side of the hill was first built in 1951, when Mr. Eduardo Tromp constructed it. At that time, the staircase consisted of 900 steps. Over time, as the steps faced erosion, the government decided to renovate these stairs in 1991. This new project delivered the newer staircase with only 587 steps. However, don't be fooled—it may still

be a work out to get on top. In addition, there is now a gazebo placed halfway up the stair for a little rest. The view at this resting stop is also a sight to see. The best time to climb the hill would be early in the morning or right before sunset, as it may not be as hot. However, the hill is of course open all day, every day. □



Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic—but important—information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

Emergency services

Even though most people don't even want to think about having to contact emergency services—especially not while on their vacation, it is still important to know what number to dial in case of the unlikely event of an accident or severe incident.

Police: 100
Police Tipline: 11141
Ambulance: 911
Fire Dept: 115
Oranjestad: HOH hospital: +297-527-4000
San Nicolas: ImSan: +297-527-8833

Electrical power

Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of outlets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

Drinking water

The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.

Supermarket hours

Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally

though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

Taxis

Prices for taxi fair are set by the Department of Public Traffic and are based on destination rather than mileage. Most taxis can take up to five passengers, but this may vary depending on the vehicle. Taxis are pretty much always available and you can ever hire one for \$45 an hour.

Safety

Aruba is one of the safest islands in the Caribbean, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occurs, so keep yourself and your belongings safe. □



For a small island, Aruba sure has a lot of unique treasures. Among these, we have some subspecies of animals that are unique to our island. These have evolved to perfectly adapt to our desert climate and make Aruba their home. At the same time, they are part of what makes Aruba truly one of a kind.

Cascabel (rattlesnake, *Crotalus durissus unicolor*)

According to the Arikok National Park, Aruba knows two kinds of snakes, the Santanero and the Cascabel. The cascabel belongs to the rattlesnake family. The cascabel is the only venomous snake from Aruba. It has a length of 65cm to 100cm, and is about 4 to 5cm wide. Its color varies from light brown to grey-brown, and its underbelly is white. On its back there are marks that are a little darker, in the shape of diamonds.

Its reproduction is oviparous, meaning the offspring can hatch from their eggs just before, during or immediately after laying.

The cascabel lives mainly in the Arikok National Park. It likes to live in dark places, and is thus found hidden among the limestone rocks and under stones. As a defense mechanism, the cascabel uses its rattle as a warning, and it is not an aggressive animal.

The cascabel feeds on lizards, small mammals such as rats and mice. It paralyzes or kills its prey with its venom, which is injected through a bite. The enemies of the casca-

bel are donkeys, goats, humans and cars. Humans are the biggest enemy of the cascabel, as they kill them and destroy their habitat for urbanization.

Shoco (burrowing owl, *Athene cucularia arubensis*)

The shoco is a small bird which is seldom seen. They are active during the day but are more active later in the day and at night for hunting. These owls have very good night vision and very good hearing. The shoco is the national symbol of Aruba.

The shoco has about 20cm of length, and the females are slightly heavier than the males. They are light brown in color, with many white spots. The belly of the Shoco is either white or light brown, and the shoco has striking yellow eyes. Its beak is yellow/green. Young owls do not have white spots and are lighter in color. The nest of the shoco is a burrow in the ground. If the shoco cannot find a burrow, it will dig one in soft soil. The shoco lays one or two eggs every other day until all the eggs are laid – a shoco can lay up to four eggs. The first owlets hatch after three to four weeks. The shoco owl takes care of the owlets for three months until they leave the nest. Only a few owlets survive.

The owls dig burrows in the ground with low grass vegetation. An owl can live up to nine years.

Its defense mechanism is simply to fly away or retreat to its burrows. They eat mostly insects, mice and

Unique fauna of Aruba

lizards, and the main threats to their survival are boas – an invasive species introduced by humans as pets – and humans through destruction of their habitat.

Prikichi (parakeet, *Aratinga pertinax*)

The Prikichi is the national bird of Aruba. On Aruba, Bonaire, and Curaçao, parakeets can be found, but each of the three islands has a different breed. The Yellow-shouldered Amazon parakeet that we have on Aruba is also found along the coast of Venezuela. Unfortunately, there is interbreeding between the breeds due to cage birds from, for example, Curaçao being released on Aruba. The parakeet population on Aruba is in danger due to extensive deforestation occurring on the island because of the growing population.

The prikichi weighs between 90 to 100 grams. It has a greenish-brown head with some yellow around the eye. The back and wings of the parakeet are dark green, and the underside of the body is a lighter shade of green. There is also a bit of blue in the wings. The parakeet's beak is gray/black.

Parakeets often use termite nests as breeding sites. Parakeets are found in all natural environments (mondi) of the island. It defends itself by flying away and loud cries. Parakeets eat seeds from the pods of the Kwihi tree, Divi Divi, and columnar cactus. They also consume natural fruits. Its main predators are boa constrictors, humans.

Conew (cottontail rabbit, *Sylvilagus floridanus nigronuchalis*)

The Eastern Cottontail rabbit (*Sylvilagus floridanus*) was probably brought over to the island by Indian settlers thousands of years ago as a source of food. This rabbit, locally known as Conew, has spread all over the island and has become part of our ecosystem. The very adaptable Conew can live in

a wide variety of habitats, including Aruba's xeric scrublands, where it typically grazes on weeds and grasses.

The Aruban Conew has a brownish grey color and a distinctive white belly. This white fur extends to the bottom of the tail which becomes visible as the rabbit runs. These rabbits can grow up to approximately 40 centimeters in length over their short lifespan of 3 years. Cottontail rabbits reach reproductive maturity when they are just 2 to 3 months old. A female rabbit, called a doe, finds a suitable nest spot under a shrub or rocks and lines it with fur. She can have an average of 3 to 4 litters per year averaging 5 young each. The doe only visits her young once or twice a day to nurse her babies for a period of 2 to 3 weeks. The young reach independence at 4 to 5 weeks.

The Aruban Conew is an endangered species and protected by Aruban law. The Conew is thought to have drastically declined due to an increase in human activities, habitat fragmentation and predation by the invasive Boa constrictor as well as feral cats and dogs. However, recently there seem to be more rabbit sightings in rural and wilderness areas and also in the National Park. This could be linked to a recent decline of the invasive Boa population after the long period of drought. As the Conew can reproduce very quickly, a short break in predation pressure can lead to a fast increase of rabbits. Sadly, the Boas are back on the rise again with the truly wet rainy seasons we have recently experienced. This could cause a new decline in the Conew population that was just starting to recover.

These are but a few of Aruba's beautiful inhabitant, which we must all contribute to protect. For more information, visit <https://www.arubanationalpark.org/main/flora-fauna/> □



Did you know about...?

The history and meaning of the Aruban florin

(Oranjestad)—Aruba Today is proud to officially introduce a new segment called Did you know about...?, where we dive into some (historical) facts of Aruba, its culture and way of living. In this first edition, we look back at the Aruban florin: its history, design and symbolism.

In Aruba, we know the 5, 10, 25 and 50 cent coins, along with the 1 and 5 Florin coin. Aruban Florin bills include the 10, 25, 50, 100, and rarely, the 200 bills. In Papiamentu we call our currency Florin, but the umbrella term for money is placa. Cents are called cen (pronounced: seng), both in the singular and plural form. Most coins are circular and their size depend on their worth. However, the 50 cent coin is easily recognizable by their square shape, as is the 5 Florin coin by their golden color. Every coin has the Aruban emblem carved on it, with the other side displaying the worth of the coin. The bigger 1 and 5 florin coins, however, contain the carving of the emblem on one side, while displaying the side profile of the Dutch king, Willem-Alexander, on the other side. When his mother, Princess Beatrix, was reigning queen, it was her profile that was carved on the two coins.

Outdated Aruban coins and their names

In the past, Aruban coins had distinctive names and also varied in worth. For example, a 5-cent coin was once called Dos placa; 10-cent coins were called debchi; 25-cent coins were called diez placa and the 50-cent coin was once called Yotin (pronounced: jo-teen). We also used a distinctive coins worth 2 ½ cents, called placa too. However, this last coin is no longer in use and has become a relic of Aruban money. Back then, the 5-Florin coin used to also be square, but now it is circular.

Aruban bills: their design and symbolism

The Aruban Florin collection contains a variation of colorful bills, displaying incredibly detailed and beautiful designs that tell the story of Aruba on a single piece of paper.

Prior to 2019, the Aruban Florin bills were relatively simpler in design compared to now, but still included beautiful designs and colors, often depicting local animals. These past designs were made by the Aruban



artist Everino Fingal in 1990 up to 2019. Between 1990 and 1993, the 5 Florin coin was a bill. The Fingal designs also included a 500-Florin bill, which has now been discontinued.

In 2019, the Central Bank of Aruba commissioned a new design of the Aruba Florin bills, this time selecting artist and former art teacher, Nigel Matthew, to present his new design. Matthew kept the tradition of including local animals and the familiar colors on the bills. However, he included additional designs that represent the Aruban culture and link to the Indigenous inhabitants that were the first to set foot on the island.

Current design and symbolism 10 florin

On the 10-florin bill, you can see a Turtuga blanco (white turtle). The blue color symbolizes the blue Caribbean Sea. You can also see the ruins of the Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruins, a coral motif, and the symbols of Cas Floria (traditional Aruban house design) with a piece of mosaic.

25 florin

On this orange bill, you can see an Aruban medicinal plant called Shoshoro. The birds Trupiaal, Shoco, rock drawings, and the symbols of Cas Floria with a piece of mosaic are also depicted. There is also

a Purun di ceramica (clay pot), in reference to the relics left behind by our indigenous ancestors.

50 florin

On this bill, we see the Cododo (blue lizard found on the ABC islands), Cangreu di tera (land crab), Willem III Tower, and again the symbols of Cas Floria with a piece of mosaic, as well as a beach plant called Banana di rif. The colors are pink/purple.

100 florin

This bill is green in color, representing nature. Here we see the Yuwana (Iguana), Aloe, Toteki (lizard), the symbols of Cas Floria with a piece of mosaic, and a dance group performing the Baile di cinta (folkloric dance with silk ribbons).

200 florin

There is another bill with a value of 200 dollars. The brown color symbolizes the earth of Aruba. Here we see the Dornasol and the Warawara—both local birds, along with the symbols of Cas Floria with a piece of mosaic, the Tuna cactus plant, and the Caha di orgel (folkloric instrument, used for many traditional songs).

Extra fact:

the word "florin" supposedly is named after the Italian city of Florence or it's a reference to the Italian word "florino", both explanations related to historical Italian currencies. □

Source: Placa, placa, placa by the National Library of Aruba



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

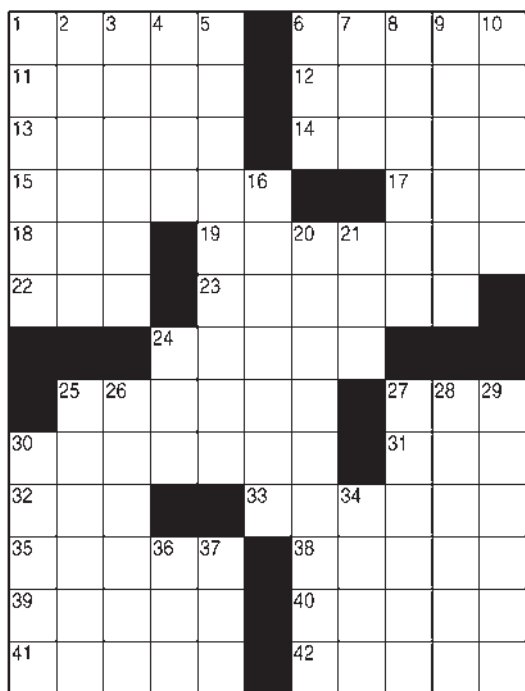
- ACROSS**
- 39 Blown away
 - 1 Digging tool
 - 6 Squashed circles
 - 11 Flynn of films
 - 12 Fairway chunk
 - 13 Job reward

- DOWN**
- 1 Continuing story
 - 2 Strut
 - 3 Out of bed
 - 4 Rx info
 - 5 Ends of races
 - 6 Strange
 - 7 Clock numeral
 - 8 Online icon
 - 25 Offering a view
 - 27 Sleep spot
 - 30 Tele-marketer's aid
 - 31 Log chopper
 - 32 Museum focus
 - 33 Official seal
 - 35 "The Devil and Daniel Webster" writer
 - 38 Give an address

RECAP	SADAT
ATALE	ATONE
MAPLE	WICKS
TOPS	STAT
AWAY	PESO
CHI	SAMURAI
HINDI	TESLA
ERMINE	STAG
AGES	ARNO
MARS	SODA
ELVIS	VANNA
SEETO	EGGON
HELEN	NEEDY

Yesterday's answer

- 9 Feeling friendless
- 10 Real bargain
- 16 Canvas shoes
- 20 Bouncers' acts
- 21 Future flower
- 24 Last letter, in London
- 25 Venus's sister
- 26 Brief snooze
- 27 Split start
- 28 English university town
- 29 Hinders
- 30 Custom
- 34 Scenery shifter
- 36 Lamb's mother
- 37 Lasso on TV



1-6

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

1-6

CRYPTOQUOTE

KFG MCIKFGI QCXEDCIO NLS

XCT JLLE, KFG MCIKFGI

MLIDCIO NLS XCT YGG.

— DPTYKLT XFSIXFPJJ

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: WELCOME, WINTER. YOUR LATE DAWNS AND CHILLED BREATH MAKE ME LAZY, BUT I LOVE YOU NONETHELESS. — TERRI GUILLEMETS

Why 'bleisure' travel gives short-term rentals like Airbnb a boost over hotels



A sign indicating the availability of a home to rent stands outside a building in Philadelphia, Wednesday, June 22, 2022. Associated Press

By SAM KEMMIS of Nerd-Wallet

Remote and hybrid work has affected many industries, from commercial real estate to downtown restaurants. And it has impacted how many workers, unfettered by office attendance requirements, plan their travels. Some call it "bleisure travel," "laptop lugging," "workations" or simply "blended travel." The gist is the same: Remote and hybrid employees extend work trips to include leisure activities or work during their leisure trips.

Whatever it's called, it could upend the traditional divide between leisure and business travel.

The travel lodging industry is already seeing the trend's impact. Because bleisure travelers' needs differ from those of traditional vacationers or work trippers, existing lodging options particularly hotels can fall short. This has created an opportunity and

appears to be fueling a boom among short-term vacation rentals such as Airbnb.

Quarterly demand growth for short-term rentals has outpaced that for hotels since the first quarter of 2022, when travel began to fully rebound from the pandemic, according to a 2023 report from AirDNA and STR/CoStar, hospitality industry analytic services. This shift reflects changing traveler preferences and the ability of short-term rental hosts to react swiftly to these changes.

"We saw more and more people looking to convert their homes to short-term rentals," says Jamie Lane, chief economist at AirDNA. "So supply could be added in an instant. It takes 10 minutes to create a listing, while building a hotel can take years."

Indeed, the year-over-year growth in supply of short-term rentals has exceeded 15% in every quarter from the first quarter of 2022

through the second quarter of 2023, compared with below 5% growth for hotels, according to the report. More short-term rentals are available and more travelers are choosing them. How does "bleisure" travel factor in?

A NEW KIND OF TRAVEL AND TRAVELER

Vacations used to be something that employees squeezed between long periods of work.

That's no longer the paradigm for many office workers with more flexible schedules.

Far from being a pandemic-only trend, the popularity of bleisure travel is increasing.

For instance, more than a third of workers plan to do some work on holiday season trips this year (up from 26% during the 2022 holiday season), according to a fall 2023 survey by consulting firm Deloitte.

Importantly, remote employees who planned to work during their holiday trips expected to extend their trips by nine days due to increased schedule flexibility.

That is, bleisure travelers are taking much longer trips than they would have if they had to rush back to the office.

This has profound implications for the lodging industry.

"Half of nights booked are now over a week," Lane says, referring to short-term rental booking data. "And when people are looking to stay longer, there's a higher propensity for them to book a short-term rental."

Many short-term rentals offer discounts for extended stays, which is attractive for bleisure travelers. And they provide home-like conditions that make them more comfortable for longer stays.

"They want those amenities a kitchen, workspace, etc.," explains Lane. □

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Microsoft's new AI key is first big change to keyboards in decades



Microsoft's new Copilot key is seen on a Dell computer, next to the alt key, in this undated photo provided by AxiCom.

Associated Press

By MATT O'BRIEN
AP Technology Writer

Computer keyboards are making room for an artificial intelligence chatbot button as Microsoft unveils its first major keyboard redesign in three decades. Starting this month, some new personal computers that run Microsoft's Windows 11 operating system will have a special "Copilot key" that launches the software giant's AI chatbot. Getting third-party computer manufacturers like Dell to add an AI button to laptops is the latest move by Microsoft to capitalize on its close partnership with ChatGPT-maker OpenAI and make itself a gateway for applications of generative AI technology. Although most people

now connect to the internet and many AI applications by phone rather than computer, it's a symbolic kickoff to what's expected to be a competitive year as tech companies race to outdo each other in AI applications even as they haven't yet resolved all the ethical and legal ramifications. The New York Times last month sued both OpenAI and Microsoft alleging that tools like ChatGPT and Copilot formerly known as Bing Chat are infringing on copyrighted news articles. The keyboard redesign will be Microsoft's biggest change to PC keyboards since it introduced a special Windows key in the 1990s. Microsoft's four-sided logo design has evolved, but the key has

been a fixture on Windows-oriented keyboards for about three decades. The newest AI button will be marked by the ribbon-like Copilot logo and be located near the space bar. On some computers it will replace the right "CTRL" key, while on others it will replace a menu key. Microsoft is not the only company with customized keys. Apple pioneered the concept in the 1980s with its "Command" key marked by a looped square design (it also sported an Apple logo for a time). Google has a search button on its Chromebooks and was first to experiment with an AI-specific key to launch its voice assistant on its now-discontinued Pixelbook. But Microsoft has a much stronger hold on the broader PC market through its licensing agreements with

third-party manufacturers like Lenovo, Dell and HP. About 82% of all desktop computers, laptops and workstations run Windows, compared to 9% for Apple's in-house operating system and just over 6% for Google's, according to market research firm IDC. □



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2 Bed Garden view \$10,000
3 Bed Ocean view \$20,000

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1 Bed Ocean front \$16,500
1 Bed Ocean View \$14,500

GOLD SEASON

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Noord	527 3200
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Police Tipline	11141
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Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

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Prof. Taxi	588 0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
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American Airlines	582 2700
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Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

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Narcotics Anonymous
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Injury concerns for Nadal after losing in the quarterfinals of his tour comeback at Brisbane

By JOHN PYE

AP Sports Writer

BRISBANE, Australia (AP) —

Rafael Nadal has concerns over his surgically repaired left hip just three matches into his comeback from a year-long injury layoff, and just over a week before the Australian Open.

The 22-time major winner needed a medical timeout in the third set of his Brisbane International quarter-final loss to Jordan Thompson on Friday after failing to convert three match points in the second.

He miscued an overhead backhand on his first match point in the 10th game of the second set, about two hours into the contest. He then missed consecutive forehands from 6-4 in the tiebreaker before No. 55-ranked Thompson rallied to win 5-7, 7-6 (6), 6-3.

With the Australian Open starting Jan. 14, Nadal's rehabilitation from the hip injury and surgery that sidelined him for all of 2023 after the last Australian Open will be tested.

"I hope to have the chance to be practicing next week and to play in Melbourne," he said. "Honestly, I am not 100% sure of anything now."



Rafael Nadal of Spain reflects between games in his quarter-final match against Jordan Thompson of Australia during the Brisbane International tennis tournament in Brisbane, Australia, Friday, Jan. 5, 2024.

Associated Press

Nadal said it felt more like a muscle issue than the tendon problem that caused him so much trouble last year, and he was hopeful it was just fatigue.

"A lot of things can be happening in a body like my body after a year without playing tennis," he said. "So hopefully it is just that, just a muscle that is super-charged. If that's the thing, perfect."

The 37-year-old Spaniard opened the tournament with straight-sets wins over Dominic Thiem and Jason Kubler but was pushed for 3 hours and 25 minutes by Thompson in what was his third match in four nights. His energy level waned at the start of the third set. And after Thompson took a 4-1 lead, Nadal was assessed by the trainer for his upper left leg and took a

medical timeout.

He said the pain was in "a very similar place to what happened last year, but different stuff."

"It's not the same like last year at all because when it happened last year, I felt something drastic immediately," Nadal said. "Today I didn't feel anything. The only problem is because the place is the same, you're a little bit more

scared."

After sending a backhand long on match point to end the longest rally of the match, Nadal walked around the net to embrace Thompson. He blew a kiss and waved to the crowd as he walked off Pat Rafter Arena around midnight.

"Obviously he's one of the best of all time, so there's no pressure on me," Thompson said. "But there's always a sense of pressure playing at home, in front of an Aussie crowd. 'He can destroy an opponent, so there's always that element that can make you nervous. But you still got to take it to him and play your own game.'" Thompson advanced to a semifinal against second-seeded Grigor Dimitrov.

Top-seeded Holger Rune had a 6-2, 7-6 (6) win over James Duckworth to set up a semifinal against Roman Safiullin, who beat Matteo Arnaldi 7-6 (4), 6-2.

SABALENKA EXTENDS WINNING STREAK

Aryna Sabalenka and Victoria Azarenka will be on opposite sides of the net in the women's semifinals almost five years after teaming up on the same court in a Fed Cup semifinal loss to Australia. □

Warriors' Steve Kerr: Giving Draymond Green space 'important' during suspension

By ERIC HE

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) —

Golden State coach Steve Kerr didn't confirm a report Thursday that suspended forward Draymond Green is expected to return to the team's facility soon, while noting that giving Green space away from the team is important for both parties.

ESPN reported that Green is "expected to return" to the Warriors' facility in the next few days.

"I don't know that," Kerr said. "Apparently someone

else does, but I don't."

Green was suspended indefinitely by the NBA three weeks ago, after he was ejected for hitting Phoenix Suns center Jusuf Nurkic in the face while the two were jostling for position.

"This was not a sprained ankle, this was not a twisted knee," Kerr said Thursday before the Warriors' game against Denver. "This is an issue that Draymond is trying to get help with. So space was important for him and us. We're trying to win games and he's trying to put himself in a position

to come back."

Kerr said that Green not being at the facility during his suspension is a non-issue.

"We discussed it, and decided that was the best way to go," Kerr said.

The league said when handing down the penalty which was Green's second suspension of the season — that Green would have to "meet certain league and team conditions before he returns to play" and that the indefinite suspension "takes into account Green's repeated history of unportsmanlike acts." □



Golden State Warriors forward Draymond Green (23) jogs off the court after getting ejected during the second half of an NBA basketball game against the Phoenix Suns, Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2023, in Phoenix.

Associated Press

Analysis: Resting starters is an easy decision in the NFL

By **ROB MAADDI**
AP Pro Football Writer

Resting starters to prevent injuries ahead of the play-offs is an easier decision in the NFL. Football is too violent to worry about a long layoff causing rust.

If coaches have an opportunity to give key players, especially quarterbacks, a game off with playoff seeds or positioning locked in, most are going to take it. And, they should.

The Dolphins lost edge rusher Bradley Chubb to a season-ending knee injury in the final minutes of a 56-19 loss to Baltimore last week. Coach Mike McDaniel said he regretted keeping Chubb in the game with the outcome already decided. It served as a reminder for other coaches going into the final game of the regular season.

There's too much risk in a physical sport.

Just look at all the QBs who sustained significant injuries this season from Aaron Rodgers and Kirk Cousins to Joe Burrow and Justin Herbert.

That's why QBs Lamar Jackson, Brock Purdy, Patrick Mahomes, Matthew Stafford and Joe Flacco are among several starters sitting out Week 18.



Baltimore Ravens quarterback Lamar Jackson (8) looks to pass as he scrambles against the Miami Dolphins during the first half of an NFL football game in Baltimore, Sunday, Dec. 31, 2023.
Associated Press

They can get their reps in practice to stay sharp and safely watch from the sideline this weekend.

But, coaches can't rest everyone. They still need 48 players to dress for the games. "What's unique about this time is that different than the preseason, your numbers are a little bit limited and so I don't think you can go into a game without feeling like, hey guys are going to go play," Rams coach Sean McVay said. "You have to

be able to continue to take steps in the right direction. The fortunate thing for us is that because. ... we're already in the playoffs, you can look at it possible six or seven seed, it does offer an opportunity to be able to rest some guys."

Carson Wentz will start at quarterback instead of Stafford for Los Angeles when the Rams (9-7) visit San Francisco (13-3). Running back Kyren Williams, wide receiver Cooper Kupp, tight end Tyler Hig-

bee, tackle Joe Noteboom, defensive lineman Aaron Donald and linebacker Ernest Jones also won't play. "I'm excited about Carson's opportunity. Obviously, a guy that's had a lot of success in this league," McVay said. "He'll have the full offensive line and some really good players around him. Just excited to be able to see him go compete, do his thing. But when you look at the totality of it, just balancing what do you think is best and there's not a

perfect solution, especially when you're talking about, alright, 53 guys, 48 active."

The 49ers and Ravens have clinched the No. 1 seeds so any players they rest this week won't play again until Jan. 20-21. Purdy, the NFC's starting Pro Bowl QB, is the only player coach Kyle Shanahan plans to keep out mainly because he has to field a team for the game and roster restrictions plus currently having five injured players won't allow him to rest too many starters.

"It's not about the rusty, it's about one, how you pull off a game," he said. "Rusty isn't always about the game. Rusty is how you treat the week. The game is how you treat the week. The game is 3 1/2 hours of, to me, what unfolded throughout the week and then you just get to cut it loose. So, that you've got to play accordingly. You've got to watch how the game's going and be as smart as you can. I also think people win in playoff games because you're a team."

Jackson and star receiver Odell Beckham Jr. are among the guys sitting for Baltimore along with several players dealing with injuries. □

Sidney Crosby named an NHL All-Star for the 10th time as league unveils the initial rosters



Pittsburgh Penguins' Sidney Crosby (87) and Washington Capitals' Tom Wilson battle for the puck after taking a face-off during the third period of an NHL hockey game in Pittsburgh, Tuesday, Jan. 2, 2024.

Associated Press

By **STEPHEN WHYNO**
AP Hockey Writer

Sidney Crosby has been named an NHL All-Star for the 10th time, as the league unveiled its initial rosters Thursday night for the event next month in Toronto.

The Pittsburgh Penguins captain was one of the first 32 All-Stars chosen by the league's hockey operations department. One player from each team is picked, with others added by fan vote later.

Tom Wilson from the rival Washington Capitals, a Toronto native, was also picked and is an All-Star for a second time. The Capitals had Wilson's dad, Keven, deliver the news by video to him in front of his teammates.

"We will all be there to cheer to you on," Wilson's dad said. "And your 95-year-old Grampie will be so pumped when he hears the news."

Reigning MVP Connor McDavid is Edmonton's representative, and league-leading scorer Nikita Kucherov was picked from the Tampa Bay Lightning. Chicago rookie of the year front-runner Connor Bedard, Colorado center Nathan MacKinnon and defending champion Vegas center Jack Eichel are were also chosen.

Auston Matthews, the first player to 30 goals this season, is the first Maple Leafs player picked, though he'll almost certainly not be the home team's only representative. William Nylander is Toronto's leading scorer with 51 points.

Brady Tkachuk was picked from the Ottawa Senators.

"I'm excited, especially being in Toronto where I'm going to be the enemy," Tkachuk told reporters in Seattle. "I'm definitely going to take advantage of that opportunity." □

Weekly SPECIALS



<p>WAS \$4.57</p> <p>\$2.85</p> <p>Per KG</p>  <p>Chicken Drumsticks</p>	<p>WAS \$14.28</p> <p>\$11.14</p> <p>Per KG</p>  <p>Flanksteak</p>	<p>WAS \$23.42</p> <p>\$19.42</p> <p>Per KG</p>  <p>Tenderloin 4/5 Frozen</p>	<p>WAS \$8.57</p> <p>\$7.42</p> <p>Per KG</p>  <p>Hamburger Seasoned</p>
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<p>WAS \$3.99</p> <p>\$3.42</p> <p>Each</p>  <p>Zachte Bruine/Witte Bollen 6st</p>	<p>WAS \$4.91</p> <p>\$3.99</p> <p>Each</p>  <p>EE Black Tea Bags 100ct</p>	<p>WAS \$3.59</p> <p>\$2.85</p> <p>Each</p>  <p>Duncan Hines Chewy Fudge Brownie Mix 18.3oz</p>	<p>WAS \$3.42</p> <p>\$2.85</p> <p>Each</p>  <p>Remia Margarine Tin 450gr</p>	<p>WAS \$1.25</p> <p>\$1.08</p> <p>Each</p>  <p>Gwoon Zilveruitjes Zoetzuur 320gr</p>
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DIARY/FROZEN

<p>WAS \$7.11</p> <p>\$5.37</p> <p>Each</p>  <p>Dairy Fresh Butter Salted Solid 1lb</p>	<p>WAS \$7.71</p> <p>\$5.82</p> <p>Each</p>  <p>Gwoon Frites 2500gr</p>
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HBC/GM

<p>WAS \$4.34</p> <p>\$3.65</p> <p>Each</p>  <p>Colgate Toothpaste Cavity Protection 6oz</p>	<p>WAS \$3.19</p> <p>\$1.99</p> <p>Each</p>  <p>EQ Hydrogen Peroxide 3% 32oz</p>
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DELI/BAKERY

<p>WAS \$1.59</p> <p>\$1.25</p> <p>100 GR</p>  <p>Colby Jack Cheese</p>	<p>WAS \$1.25</p> <p>\$1.08</p> <p>100 GR</p>  <p>Cooked Ham 35%</p>
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DRY FOOD

<p>WAS \$4.79</p> <p>\$3.99</p> <p>Each</p>  <p>Libby's Regular Corned Beef 340gr</p>	<p>WAS \$1.77</p> <p>\$1.42</p> <p>Each</p>  <p>Sum en Sam Ketjap Asin 250ml</p>	<p>WAS \$3.54</p> <p>\$2.97</p> <p>Each</p>  <p>Badia Mexican Chili Pods Ancho 3oz</p>	<p>WAS \$5.99</p> <p>\$5.14</p> <p>Each</p>  <p>Reynolds Parchment Paper 10.9m x 38.1cm</p>	<p>WAS \$2.05</p> <p>\$1.77</p> <p>Each</p>  <p>Gwoon Keukenpapier 2 Laags 4st</p>
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